



**URBAN FORESTRY BOARD
APPROVED MINUTES**

**REGULAR MEETING
WEDNESDAY, January 18, 2012**

CALL TO ORDER

Board Vice Chair Hayes called the Board Meeting to order at 5:40 p.m.

Board Members in Attendance:

**Tom Hayes – Vice Chair, Peggy Maceo, Ryan Fleming, Nick Classen, Christopher Kite
Patrick Brewer – Board Chair, and April Rose were not in attendance for this meeting.**

Staff in Attendance:

**Parks and Recreation Department: Walter Passmore, Urban Forestry Program Manager
Charles Vaclavik, PARD Division Manager
Gwendolyn McGee, Administrative Specialist
LeAnn Ishcomer, Supervisor, Park Rangers**

Ray Henning, Line Clearance Superintendent, Austin Energy

Michael Embesi, City Arborist: Planning and Development Review Department

1. Approve the minutes of the Urban Forestry Board's regular meeting of December 21, 2011

The minutes for the regular meeting of 12/21/2011 were approved on Board Member Maceo's motion, Board Member Classen second on a 4-0, Board Member Kite abstained from voting due to his absence during this meeting.

2. CITIZEN COMMUNICATION: GENERAL

Zoila Vega – Urban Forestry Board Retreat

Michael Fossum – donated his time to Zoila Vega

3. ANNOUNCEMENTS

Two announcements were made by Walter Passmore, Urban Forestry Program Manager: The Forestry Department will plant seedlings on Jan28th at Commons Ford and Lady Bird Lake.

Update on Barton Spring trees #18 and 19 – Tree #18 has been removed and the logs positioned as requested inside the trailhead of the Barton Creek Greenbelt.

Tree #19 was pruned to reduce the crown.

4. STAFF BRIEFINGS

- a. LeAnn Ishcomer – Supervisor, Park Rangers – Briefed the Board on the proposed ordinance change regarding vegetation restrictions.
- b. Michael Embesi, City Arborist, Planning and Review Development Department, presented his monthly report.
- c. Ray Henning, Line Superintendent, Austin Energy, presented his monthly report.

5. EXECUTIVE LIAISON'S REPORT

Walter Passmore, Urban Forestry Program Manager, presented his staff report and briefed the Board on the items listed below:

- a. The Forestry Program has put together a draft notification process regarding how to better inform Boards and Commission, and the General Public on the treatment/removal of protected and heritage size trees. The document is being edited at this time and he will present it to the Board at a later date.
- b. Introduction of a new concept the City is pursuing for inter-departmental collaboration on land management of all public properties. The idea is to have a more cohesive and unified direction for all properties.
- c. Another cooperative effort is a inter-departmental working group to try to combine resources and address wildlife prevention updates including consideration of the wildland urban interface code.

6. NEW BUSINESS - DISCUSSION AND ACTION ITEMS

1. Discussion Item:

- a. Board Member Classen briefed the Board on his findings regarding the cemetery trees. He stated that he had a written report and will type it up and email it to the Board Members before the next meeting.

7. FUTURE ITEMS FROM BOARD MEMBERS

1. Briefing by Carl Wren – Consulting Engineer, Austin Fire Department, regarding the Wildlife Interfacing Code.
2. Discuss and take possible action on Cemetery Tree report from Board Member Classen.
3. Briefing by Walter Passmore – Urban Forestry Program Manager, PARD, regarding the Vegetation Ordinance.
4. Discuss and take action regarding the Tree Species list; what future course to take in terms of implementation and departmental reviews.
5. Briefing on new park land acquisition by PARD planning and design department.

ADJOURNMENT

Vice Chair Hayes adjourned the meeting at 7: 55 p.m.